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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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January 29, 2003

Mr. Keith Klein
United States Department of Energy
P. O. Box 550, MSIN: A7-50
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

Mr. Keith Thomson
Fluor Hanford Incorporated
P.O. Box 1000, MSIN: H5-20
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Messrs. Klein and Thomson:

Re: Investigation into receipt of transuranic waste from off-site generators

Thank you for the assistance of the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) and Fluor Hanford Incorporated (FH) personnel during the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) December - January inspection into receipt at the Hanford Site of transuranic (TRU) wastes shipped by off-site generators. The inspection was conducted to assess receipt verification at Hanford for TRU wastes received on December 20, 2002, and included review of information provided by generators for their waste streams.

Ecology found the information provided by the generators adequate for receipt of the TRU waste streams received on December 20, and considers the December - January inspection closed. However, Ecology has the following two concerns regarding future shipments of TRU waste by off-site generators. USDOE's Hanford Waste Management Program Manager should coordinate discussion of the concerns listed below with Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program (NWP) Waste Management Project, to assure scheduling and inclusion of appropriate NWP staff.

CONCERNS:

- 1) The USDOE's stated objective is to receive the off-site waste at Hanford for temporary storage for eventual shipment for disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP). However, many of the TRU waste streams being received are currently not accepted for disposal at the WIPP (i.e. remote handled or PCB containing waste beyond specified concentrations). Therefore, the storage of these waste streams at Hanford is indefinite.

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- 2) Hanford has no facility dedicated to receipt verification of remote handled waste. It is possible such verification could be accomplished by observing drum loading at the generator's site, or by visual verification in existing Hanford hot cell facilities.

Should you have any questions regarding Ecology's December - January inspection, please contact me at (509) 736-3031.

Sincerely,



Bob Wilson
Compliance Specialist
Nuclear Waste Program

BW:nc

cc: Clifford Clark, USDOE
Steve Szendre, FH
Ken Niles, ODOE
Administrative File